

# Passage from Old World leaves a common heritage and bond

*No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.*

— John Donne

**By Dennis Smith**

My great-grandmother, Kristina, with her parents and brothers and sisters, together with her father's brother and his family, sailed out of the harbor at Hamburg about the 20th of May, 1866.

Typical of peasant farmers, they had seldom been beyond the borders of their local parish. The city of Hamburg must have seemed as foreign as the moon.

They sailed on a ship called the Kenilworth — spelled "Kendelworth" and "Kendleworth" in sketchy family histories. (It is interesting how muddled the facts become over time. Even the date of departure, noted as the 20th of May, is probably more accurately recorded as May 25 in Conway Sonne's maritime encyclopedia of Mormon migration, "Ships, Saints and Mariners.")

On board were 684 Mormon emigrants. Of these, 583 were Danes. There were also 23

Norwegians, 73 Swedes and five Germans.

Possibly someone reading this account will have had ancestors who sailed to America with my great-grandmother. For two months in 1866, we hold a common heritage.

I try to imagine their emotions as they sailed out of the harbor toward the open Atlantic.

Surely the portholes were lined with faces, watching the receding landscape. It all must have been burned into memory, never to be forgotten the rest of their lives — every creak of the ship, the splashing of water at the waterline as the wooden vessel cut its way seaward.

And yet so little information of the experience survives.

The ocean passage took 52 days. During the voyage (according to Sonne's encyclopedia) there were 12 deaths, seven marriages and two births.

Behind these brief statistics lie whole volumes of emotion never recorded.

Kristina's parents' history states that "they had many narrow escapes while crossing. The ship took fire three times. There was much sickness on board due . . . to their crowded conditions."

Dorthea, Krisina's little sister, was 5 years





interview. He wrote about macular degeneration in the March 1993 issue of the journal *Nature Genetics*.

Still, progress is being made. In the past nine years, researchers have found genes responsible for three macular diseases.

Now they hope animal studies will help them learn who is at risk for macular degeneration and what can be done to prevent it.

"Maybe there is a mineral missing that can easily be supplemented, or maybe sunglasses can avoid the problem in some," Stone said. "The problem of macular degeneration is so vast, affecting millions of people, that what we need to find is a \$1.75 solution and not

"If we can delay the start of symptoms just by 10 to 15 percent, most people will never have the problems."

While the study of prevention continues, other researchers are looking for cures. The most promising work is being done around the world by several groups working on replacing damaged RPE cells with transplants.

"In animals we have now shown that RPE cells can be harvested, cultured (grown in containers) and implanted back into the eye. RPE cells that are put back have the ability to interact normally with the other cell layers," said Dr.

ophthalmologist and co-director of retinal service at the University of California at San Francisco, in an interview.

"We don't want to raise false hope, but if the work keeps going as it currently is, we expect to perform RPE transplants on humans in the next several years," Zarbin said.

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ney Diseases. The project also will establish a bladder tissue bank for future research.

The chief symptom of interstitial cystitis, or IC, is frequent and painful urination. It's believed to affect up to half a million people in this country, most of them women between 20 and 50 years old.

Despite the numbers, little is known about the disorder, the institute said announcing the study this month.

Because of its similarity to bladder infections, interstitial cystitis is hard to identify and patients sometimes go from doctor to doctor for years, receiving futile antibiotic treatments.

Researchers hope the informa-

devise more effective treatments and discover ways to prevent it, if possible.

Hospitals taking part in the study are in San Diego; Chicago; Royal Oak, Mich.; Detroit; Oklahoma City; Philadelphia; and Madison, Wis.

Prospective volunteers seeking more information, including names of participating hospitals, should write to: National Kidney and Urologic Diseases Information Clearinghouse, Box NKUDIC, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892. — **Associated Press.**

## Sleeping disorders

NEW YORK — Breathing diffi-

New England Journal of Medicine.

In one of the largest studies of its kind, sleep researchers looked at the breathing patterns of more than 600 working men and women from age 30 to 60.

Results showed that 9 percent of women and 24 percent of men had five or more episodes of breathing cessation, apnea, or impaired breathing, hypopnea, per hour.

The primary predictors of sleep-disordered breathing are male sex and obesity.

If your hours of sleep are adequate but you are chronically sleepy during the day, you may be a candidate for evaluation at a sleep disorders center. There are effective treatment options avail-

I have often thought how wonderful it would have been had Kristina been able to keep a journal, not just of the physical details, but especially of her feelings during those long and crowded 52 days. It would have been in Danish, of course, and probably in pencil, crude and simple, but its value would be inestimable.

One of the 12 deaths during passage was that of Kristina's 5-month-old baby brother, Christian. He died just 10 days before they reached New York.

Five-year-old Dorthea "remembered plainly seeing him wrapped in sheets and slid off a board into the sea. This made such an impression upon her tender years she never forgot it."

Reaching far back for these emotions may seem futile and even insignificant; the past is gone and will never come again.

## MEN

*Continued from C1*

men's center seems like Utah's version of the "Field of Dreams": Build it and they will come.

Like the hero of "Field of Dreams," Beckstead's strong suit is his earnestness, the same earnestness that has propelled him to attend at least a hundred funeral

passage into the deep and boundless ocean — are moments of my own humanity, just as my own humanity is a part of the world my great-grandchildren will inherit, people I will never know, and who will never know me from any closer distance than I have known Kristina.

● **THE LDS CHURCH** Museum of History and Art near Temple Square has a permanent exhibition partially focused on travails of Mormon immigrants of the 1800s. Within the exhibit is a reconstructed section of the living quarters below a ship's deck, where museumgoers can climb into the sleeping quarters and experience the cramped conditions passengers were forced to endure during the long weeks of mid-Atlantic passage.

Dennis Smith is an artist and writer living in Highland, Utah County.

group, an 18-year-old man called Beckstead and confided that he wanted to kill himself.

"We talked for a long time and he agreed to come to the men's group," says Beckstead. "I told him we've actually felt the pain; we've been there."

"That's just the point I'm trying to get across. I know there are a lot of creeps out there. But there's a lot of good men and they need